4/25/70

Dear Hal,

Glad to get your letter of the 21st and the enclosires, especially those showing the wide attention to Skolnick's evil. Locally, there has been no attention to Gentry's book. It has gotten a big play elsewhere. With the special angle, one wonders how many masters he serves and who they may be. I'd like to see the Trib story. Gentry promised me galleys I've never seen, natch. The Truman story I do recall, think I may have saved it.

It is not only that I was the wise father, a role into which too many have regularly thrust me, I also knew about Skolnick because of the device he used to get this material from Trunzo. (There is avlue in one of the stories you sent for it discloses what I can so readily prove otherwise, that S got this from an unnamed "another" person and did not get them from the Arch.)

It is worse than the bad situation you recognize because of the inevitable consequences and their potential. There will be large headlines saying the Report is validated and there is no suppression, etc. This has already made a martyr of Groth, the Black-Panther murderer, for here S was not content to steal what I had but embroidered foolishly on it, with outrageous and easily-refuted lies. Thus Groth now appears as a martyr.

I have prepared a countersuit against Skolnick but lack means of filing it. When those of whom I sought help failed to respond I wrote the clerk of the court to see if I can file it by mail. Meanwhile, a friend who cannot get involved personally is attemting to set up a TV confrontation. If this succeeds, I can beard Skolnick on camera and be in Chicago to file a suit, perhaps get a lawyer, and also file damaged and plagiarism suits against the two stations that helped him, neither of which has responded to my letters, which should help. One even pretends it is "unknown" from the postal stamps added when it was returned! I am anxious to get this suit on file before S can be thrown out of court ff only in an effort to prevent these headlines. They will adversely effect all suits, including the one I filed and those I'm preparing. The timing makes me wonder. In the suit I say he could not better serve as a government agent if he were paid to do what he has done. I may also sue his college, which did, whether or not it authorized it, appear in his theft, the first use. They called him in and gave him hell the day <u>before</u> they pretended to me they didn't know what I wrote them about! If I have heard nothing by the middle of the week I'll have to try and make my own arrangements to get to Chicago and on TV, and then file the suit and hold a press conference at the courthouse when I file it. I'll be armed with tapes of conversations with the stations, Skolnick and, if Russ ever finds it, his correspondence with Skolnick. But all I really need is my own work and the copy I already have on his suit. He was so careless he did not remove the marks Paul put on the copies he got for me! We all know that is not from the Archives, and the first thing I did was establish he'd never asked the Archives for anything. Meanwhile, I also know there is no SS material on Vallee at the Archives. It will be quite a confrontation if I can arrange it! But, unfortunately, it will have to begin with my reversing phone calls, which may not be accepted, for cannot even pay for them.

The only thing not impure fiction not stolen from me was converted inot fiction. This is the Hurt hit. He got the police record of the call from Bud and applied his imagination. I knew about Hurt, glad you date it at two years ago, but I never established a spearate file on him. My last word about him is that he was just out of the loonel farm. I have no knowledge of the suit of which Penn talks but I hope this is closer to reality than most of his stuff and I'd

like to be filled in on it when and as possible. Penn's reference, clearly, is to the S frivolity.

A few hasty refs to your letter: As I told Gentry, LHO served no necessary purpose in the Powers affair. It is for such things the USSR has and uses radar. That Powers was shot not was not essential, though it helped the purpose of ending the summit and the detente (rather, I think, than entente, as you put it). The difference was only in Khruschev's decibel leverl, for the intrusion of the plane was known and there was only one country with that capability.

I think I can use the ticket for I'll be having to go to NYC.

Nichols is up to a more dignified Skolnick. I've sent Paul a little of it because he prefers to shun such things. I'll tell him the rest, if he's interested, when he is here - and I'm looking forward to that. I hope he can spend some time here so I can fill him in for you and Jim. It now appears that Nichols is the most likely source of some of the fruit of Lifton's espionage, though he denied it. It is beyond question that he is working against me for we now have some of the proof from him, Please keep this to yourself, unless Paul and Jim a are interested. He is, rather than undertaking the mission Gary asked of him with Betzner, working with Betzner's father to try and invent "errors" I made in PW relating to the son and his pictures. Were it true, which is unlikely, what would it mean? And this is a way to do good? These people are sick with and of their own failures and inadequacies. To have anything, including self-respect, they have to steal, and to disguise from themselves that they are thieves they have to convert their victim into the villain.

I have the TIME story, didn't see it for a week, have written them a letter of which Paul will have a copy, and there has been no responee. I sent a copy to Sidey, from whom also silence.

Bonner is worth neither time nor attention. I made a record immediately with her, her publishers and the distributor, all of whom have been silent. If we ever have to respond, which seems doubtful, the response is ready.

Elder would do me more good if he'd see to it that the company paid me what he owed and never paid and what they promised to pay everyt time I was out there. Icannot longer take the time to write them. But if you could get him to write on the unpublishability of solid work on this subject, that might help. That woman who phoned on the Dolen show ended any good it could have served, for she not no practical ideas at all and has falled silent.

I doubt any Ferrie-Vallee connection, but ideologically it is possible.

With what they have already done, it is perhaps better than the LA people are doing nothing. If this sounds like no more than bitterness, look at the record.

I'll fill Paul in on my suit(s), plans, etc and he can inform you.

When you can you might phone Gentry to remind him he promised me proofs and now it seems the book is out and he didn't send them. 981-6940. Again, if nothing else, a record. Too many things are coming at what may be a critical time. They may in each case be no more than coincidence, but it is foolhardy to assume nothing else is possible. I hope you'll keep me posted on anything that might seem relevant, no matter how inconsequential, including from some of our "own". I wish it were possible for me to get out there again, but Calif, has been a

financial disaster for me. It has cost me about $4,000, all in all, incredible as this may seem. Raymar alone owes me $2,500. San Diego has never finished paying me, LA never did, you know of some of the rest, the LA Free Press has never paid and with Stanley Marks is up to another plagiarism. John has 5,000 copies of O in NO. Need I continue? And with all the money so freely spent on speakers, you can account for every "honorarium" I got!

Meanwhile, with the resources, we now have the possibilities for the application of intellectual judo we never had before, one of my concerns about this apparent gangpp, all these "coincidences".

Best to everyone and thanks for what you sent.

Sincerely,